



Cooperation between the
International Development Research Centre
and
Private Voluntary Organizations
in the Third World

Anthony R. Lovink
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PREFACE

1 For the following paper, I draw to some extent on my own experience both as a CUSO volunteer for three years in rural Ghana and an equal period as a program officer for the protestant churches in the United States as they are involved in relief and development work in the Third World.

2 I am also indebted to various publications by the Overseas Development Council (particularly the work of John Sommer), publications by USAID and CIDA on the work of PVOs and publications available on Private Voluntary Organization development work from the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

3 Lastly, I appreciate the time and inputs already made by some of my colleagues at IDRC, as well as conversations on a personal basis with representatives of certain PVOs for the ideas I have tried to develop in this paper.

4 However, since I have been with IDRC for less than a year, and since there have been no formal discussions at a policy making level as to possible future relationships between IDRC and Canadian Private Voluntary Organizations, this paper should be viewed as my personal effort. I am therefore solely responsible for its contents.

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A Introduction

1. Over the last few years, there has been a basic shift in Third World development theory. Emphasis used to be placed nearly exclusively on employment generation and the development of infrastructure with the belief that the benefits would eventually "trickle down" to the poorest in the Third World nations. Realizing the weakness of this view, most governments and development agencies have now shifted their emphasis to concentrate development measures on the poorest groups in order to at least satisfy their basic needs, providing them with a minimum standard of living.

2. With the increasing acceptance by development agencies and most Third World Governments of this shift to a basic needs approach has come a crisis for development agencies like CIDA and IDRC. Questions are being asked such as the following: How do we reach the urban and rural poor in the Third World? How are technological and research breakthroughs translated so as to be relevant to the needs of the poor in the Third World? Which institutions in the poor areas of the Third World are able to absorb adequate outside funds and are able to participate effectively in the development of projects and programs to satisfy the basic needs of the poor?

3. One increasingly frequent partial answer to these questions focuses on the involvement of indigenous Third World private voluntary organizations in the development process. Private voluntary organizations (PVOs) are those agencies recognized by government, not for profit with a voluntary membership, frequently providing alternate or complimentary services and facilities to those available from government.
4. Examples of these kind of agencies in the Third World include private hospitals and health clinics, schools and universities, agricultural research stations and cooperatives, foundations, national councils and other important institutions, many originally established with partial financial support from PVOs in the industrialized world. In 1976-77 Canadian PVO resources going to the Third World, largely through examples of the above kinds of government recognized independent Third World institutions totalled Cdn. \$38.15 million.

B The Work of Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) in the Third World

5. The work of indigenous private voluntary organizations in the Third World can be described in various ways.

5.1 PVOs are committed to the basic needs approach to development. Their philosophy emphasizes a concern for individuals and improvements in their standard of livings. As well their limited funding base generally prevents interest in large, capital intensive projects.

5.2 For the same reasons, PVOs are technologically innovative and make the most effective use of locally available technologies - the result in both cases

being technologies frequently more suitable to poor rural contexts than those imported from the industrialized world.

By technology I mean not merely "hard" machinery - for example plows, tractors, seeds, pumps and so forth, but also "soft" technology encompassing aspects of development, such as training programs and management - for example paramedical preventive health programs, maintenance programs for trucks and pumps, improved irrigation methods.

5.3 PVOs are usually very action oriented, willing to experiment with new options for development, without excessive concern for the political or bureaucratic risks of failure. Consequently they are able, for example to provide the poor farmer with the risk capital he needs to attempt new cropping methods or livestock breeds, as well as encourage greater involvement of women in program planning and new approaches to health care.

C Canadian Private Voluntary Organizations Involved in Third World Development

6. Canadian private voluntary organizations have long been linked with sister organizations in the Third World, actively involved in the development of their countries. The larger Canadian organizations and those probably most able to cooperate with IDRC include: Care Canada; the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; the Mennonite Central Committee; Oxfam-Canada; the United Church of Canada and World University Service of Canada.

7. Third World PVOs, as their contribution to the development process becomes recognized, increasingly approach Canadian PVOs for funding of needed programs. In response, Canadian PVOs in the last two years, have increased their Canadian public support for Third World Development by 55.4% - from \$74.28 million in 1974-75 to \$128 million in 1976-77.

8. Correspondingly, CIDA, through its Non-Governmental Organizations division has substantially increased its support for Canadian PVOs working with counterpart organizations in the Third World. CIDA's contribution to Canadian PVOs, generally on a matching fund basis in 1974-75 was \$26 million and was increased to \$38.15 million in 1976-77. The funding level for 1978-79 is anticipated to be \$50 million.

9. The rationale for CIDA's support to Canadian PVO Third World projects includes both the value of their projects and the larger popular consensus that is built up in favour of development aid among the Canadian electorate through the publications and the extensive voluntary membership of private voluntary organizations.

D IDRC and PVOs Relationships

10. What advantages for IDRC and for Canadian PVOs would result from a closer relationship? Such a relationship would not necessarily involve a significant financial commitment by IDRC, partly because PVOs are still experiencing a substantial growth in their resources. From IDRC's perspective nevertheless, several advantages for both IDRC and PVOs in Canada and the Third World would result from a closer cooperation than presently exists.

Chart I schematically illustrates the advantages of closer cooperation. The chart should be read following the arrows so as to more effectively illustrate the flow of benefits for both organizations.

Chart 1

Advantages of IDRC - PVO Cooperation

Advantages for IDRC

1 Working through Third World PVO channels, IDRC can complement government-related organizations and research institutions for field testing of new 'soft' and 'hard' technologies - seeds, intercropping, water pumps, urban housing, training of health auxiliaries, grain storage, use of traditional medicine, delivery systems for adult education, composite fish culture, role of women.

3 IDRC project holders will be provided with field tested evidence in cooperation with local and regional research centres to convincingly document, for policy makers in developing countries, technology alternatives for the development of their poor rural and urban areas.

5 Initial cooperation between IDRC project holders and PVOs may encourage requests to IDRC for research projects to results of other PVO 'successful' projects and to identify socio-economic benefits to replicating these projects in other similar areas.

7 Examples of PVO projects which may relate to IDRC interests are listed in Appendix A.

Advantages for PVO

2 Working with IDRC, PVOs increase their access to information about viable, relatively cheap appropriate technologies for improving the technical sophistication of their projects, helping Third World decision-making institutions and individuals become aware of PVO levels of technological innovation and of their capacity to bridge the technological gap between the rich and poor within a developing country.

4 PVOs will be able to document for replication in other similar topographical and climatic regions, some of their successful projects with identifiable positive benefits for the rural and urban poor.

6 It should be possible to develop an information bank of PVO projects, as well as a network of similar and related projects in different countries.

E The Process to Establish Cooperation between Private Voluntary
 Organizations and IDRC

11. The major Canadian PVOs relevant to this paper were listed in paragraph C-6. All of them work closely with their American or British counterpart and/or with an international grouping of similar agencies. Projects in the Third World wholly or partially funded by Canadian PVOs are frequently submitted by Third World institutions to the international grouping of agencies, such as the World Council of Churches, or to the US/UK agency such as Care of Oxfam.

12. As primarily a Canadian institution, which is beginning to work more closely with other Canadian institutions engaged in international development, initial contact with the PVO development network should be made here in Canada. IDRC and the Canadian PVOs need to find out more about each other.

13. While building a relationship of trust with each other, IDRC and the selected Canadian PVOs could identify specific projects or program thrusts in the Third World which could usefully use or have used more technological input for the following reasons among others;

13.1 The project was 'successful' in achieving its goals and could have benefitted from an evaluation, documentation and possible duplication in other settings;

13.2 The project provides a useful setting for research into the impediments or advantages of new technology - ranging from new seeds and the use of paramedical staff through to the effects on women of pumps in village settings;

13.3 The project relates to an ongoing IDRC program thrust.

14. Following upon our discussions with the Canadian PVOs, our openness to encouraging cooperation between IDRC, research institutions and Third World PVOs could be made known through the PVO network.

15. Subsequently, with the foreknowledge of the relevant Canadian PVO, a limited number of research projects could be presented to IDRC by the Third World PVO for possible support in collaboration with a local, regional or international research Centre. Actual funding could be provided by both IDRC and the Canadian PVO, but IDRC's funding for 1978-79 would be limited to a total of \$100,000 spread over 3-4 projects.

F Summary of Implications for IDRC of Closer Relationships with Private
 Voluntary Organizations

16. Increased identification of technologies capable of meeting the basic needs of poor people in the Third World!

17. Field testing of both 'hard' and 'soft' technologies - resulting data to be made available to local, regional and international research centres.

18. Building up of institutions working with the Third World poor having the absorptive capacity and the research capability needed to make a significant contribution to the development process.

19. Increased cooperation between Canadian organizations having similar interests, and a possibly increasing visibility for IDRC in Canada.

G Timetable for Development of Relationships between IDRC and PVOs

1. Late April, 1978 - Using this restricted draft paper as a base, further discussion among IDRC staff, with representatives of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and with CIDA's NGO Division to improve the conceptual framework for future IDRC-PVO relations.
2. Late May 1978 - Initial meetings with selected Canadian PVOs either in Ottawa or at their head offices.
3. Autumn 1978 - Development and presentation by Third World PVOs of possible research projects to IDRC.
4. January 1979 - In cooperation with Canadian PVOs, funding of 3-4 of these projects.
5. Summer 1979 - Preparation of a draft policy document on IDRC - PVO relations to be studied by IDRC staff and selected PVO representatives.
6. March 1980 - Presentation of resulting draft policy document to the IDRC Board for policy decision on long-term directions.

Appendix A

Although by no means exhaustive, the following 1977 selected projects are those which may relate to the interests of IDRC divisions. The projects are some of those sponsored by two representative PVO organizations - the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and Oxfam-Canada. It should be noted that the amounts indicated only reflect the Canadian contribution and not the total contribution to the project indicated from the international PVOs in the case of these two Canadian PVOs - Caritas and Oxfam-UK.

1. CCODP (1977)

A AFNS related

1) Fishermen's Cooperative products (Talcahuano, Chile)	\$ 10,000
2) Community Tree Planting project (Riobamba, Ecuador)	22,000
3) Flour Mill, (Bujumbura, Burundi)	4,475
4) Cow Fram and Fruit tree plantation (Nandon, Ghana)	16,647
5) Breeding farm (Samburu, Ethiopia)	10,000
6) Fishing Equipment (Foguy, Casamance, Dakar, Birkamabram, Senegal)	31,700
7) Experimental farm (Katende, Uganda)	32,800

B Health Sciences Related

1) Promotion of nurses for indigenous sectors (Catavi, Bolivia)	27,450
2) Three Slum Area pharmacies (Santiago, Chile)	31,000
3) Studies on health conditions for banana workers (Costa Rica)	5,000
4) Health Education Program (Mubimbi, Burundi)	5,100
5) Rural formation and preventive medicine center (Khliehriat, India)	26,388
6) Three wells (Haraghe, Ethiopia)	8,500
7) Water well drilling equipment (Goron-Goron, Upper Volta)	4,400
8) Health promotion and disease prevention (Idiola, Zaire)	10,300
9) Two windmills for water supply (Hekay, Mbwasia)	4,682
10) Water Supply reinforcement (Myundo, Rwanda)	16,300

C SSHR related

1) Two social science research centers (Cordoba, Argentina)	\$ 5,000
2) Cooperative leaders formation (La Paz, Bolivia)	15,000
3) Community alphabetization project for indigenous people (Cauca, Colombia)	18,000
4) Adult Education Program (Santo Domingo, D.R.)	26,200
5) Rural formation bursaries (INAPES/Cameroun)	10,410
6) Young peasants pilot project (Keur-Moussa, Senegal)	13,000
7) Construction of women's center (Kienbaro, Upper Volta)	1,300
8) Formation of teachers - Phase I (Southern Sudan)	14,100

D Information Sciences Related

1) Documentation Information Center on Latin America	5,000
2) Communication and publications Centre (Ilo, Peru)	4,000
3) Promotion and distribution of newspaper <u>Afrique Nouvelle</u> (Dakar)	13,500

2. Oxfam (May 1976 - April 1977)

A AFNS related

1) Urban nutrition program (Chile)	10,000
2) Cooperative Irrigation Scheme (Peru)	22,000
3) Agricultural Loan Scheme (India)	32,000
4) Fishing Cooperative (Santo Antao, Cape Verde)	56,000
5) Village Vegetable Gardens (Senegal)	45,915
6) PAP Feed Mill (Zaire)	63,043

B Health Sciences Related

1) Water Conversation (Cape Verde)	210,000
2) Mobile Public Health Team (Zaire)	19,960
3) Savar Thana Health (Bangladesh)	150,000

C Social Sciences Related

1) Primary School Readers (Mozambique)	41,220
2) Adult Education Centre (Peru)	4,000
3) Cattle Marketing Study (Peru)	4,150
4) Sarvodaya Education Centre (Sri Lanka)	176,809

D Information Sciences Related

1)	Rural Documentation Centre (Research)(Bolivia)	\$ 16,000
2)	BRAC Printing Press (Bangladesh)	102,000
3)	Radio San Rafael (Bolivia)	127,600
4)	La voz de la Selva Radio (Peru)	16,000